

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7029

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2235

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PDIP LA US GW AS

SUBJECT: FRG MILITARY ATTACHE IN BANGKOK TO VISIT LAOS

1. AUSTRALIAN CHARGE CRUISE DURING CALL ON POL SECTION CHIEF SAID HE HAD HEARD FROM FRG CHARGE RITTMULLER THAT LPDR HAD ASKED US DATT TO LEAVE LAOS, AND THAT FRG ATTACHE RESIDENT IN BANGKOK BUT ACCREDITED TO LAOS WOULD BE VISITING VIENTIANE SEPTEMBER 20. IN RESPONSE TO CRUISE'S QUESTION, POL SECTION CHIEF CONFIRMED THAT LPDR HAD REQUESTED WE TEMPORARILY SUSPEND OUR DAO ACTIVITIES AND THAT WE WERE COMPLYING.

2. CRUISE SAID HE HAD BROACHED SUBJECT OF ATTACHES WITH RITTMULLER BECAUSE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR SEVERAL WEEKS AGO HAD ASKED FOREIGN MINISTRY CHIEF OF CABINET SOUBANH WHETHER AUSTRALIAN ATTACHE RESIDENT BANGKOK BUT NOT RPT NOT ACCREDITED LAOS COULD COME UP FOR VISIT. SOUBANH HAD NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING ON THIS BUT HAD NOT GIVEN DIRECT NEGATIVE REPLY. AFTER HEARING FROM RITTMULLER THAT GERMAN ATTACHE WAS COMING UP, HIS FIRST VISIT SINCE MAY, 1976, BUT THAT AMERICAN ATTACHE HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN ASKED TO LEAVE, CRUISE CAME TO ASK US WHETHER REPORT TRUE. NOW THAT IT HAD BEEN CONFIRMED, HE SAID HE STILL PLANNED TO GO BACK TO SOUBANH TO ASK WHETHER AUSTRALIAN ATTACHE COULD COME UP.
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